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THE C A S E

OF THE
PRESENT POSSESSORS
OF THE
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FRENCH LANDS

In the ISLAND of
St. Christophers.

Humbly Offered
To the Consideration of His MAJESTY,
and both Houses of PARLIAMENT.

Occasioned by a *Petition* resolved upon at the
last *General Court* of the *South Sea Company*,
to be presented to His *Majesty*, that he would
be pleased to grant the Company that Part
of the *Island* of *St. Christophers*, which for-
merly belong'd to the *French*, in Order to
the better carrying on their *Trade*.

Though there is somewhat in Greatness and unbounded
Power, which is apt to strike the World with Admira-
tion; there is another Resemblance of the DIVINITY,
which has a more peculiar Beauty in it, and that consists
in Justice and Goodness.

Sermon at the Coronation of King WILLIAM
and Queen MARY.

L O N D O N :
Printed for the AUTHOR. MDCCXXI.

G. S. A. D.

PRESENTED TO THE
MUSEUM OF THE
AMERICAN ANTIQUITIES

ST. CROIX

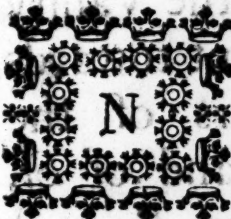


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THE INTRODUCTION.


 Ations and Kingdoms
 are to be consider'd as
 larger *Families*, with
 respect to their own
Members; and their Happiness,
 like that of private Families; will
 be more or less promoted, as *Justice*
 and *Goodness*, being Virtues of the
 greatest Use to Mankind, do ap-
 pear in the Administration of pub-
 lick Affairs.

We are now bless'd with a *Prince*,
 who is Eminently adorn'd with
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these Qualities; on which Account his *Administrations* are extensively beneficial, and all his Subjects are sure of having every Matter wisely consider'd, and justly determin'd.

If these Virtues are the Subjects of great Men's Attention, and run thro' their Actions, so far they are distinguish'd as unbiass'd *Patriots*:

I have here indulg'd the Vanity of contributing my Talent towards rendering the Possessors of the *French Lands* in the Island of *St. Christophers*, worthy the Regard and Favour of our *Glorious King*, the *Two Houses of Parliament*, and the Patronage of every just and good *Patriot*.

I am perswaded, that if our *Governors* will condescend to read the following *Case*, which, in general, contains the Circumstances of

of those People ; they'll be inclin'd to think, that *They* deserve strict *Justice*, favourable *Regards*, and the kindest *Usage* from the Government and Nation ; and ought no Ways to be subject to *hard* and *arbitrary* Conditions from any, to whom His *Majesty* may be pleas'd to grant those Lands.

I can't think it improper to acquaint the *Publick*, that no Part of *my own Interest* will be affected in the Fate of the *French Lands* ; and that this is a *voluntary Service*, flowing from my Zeal to the *Publick*, and to the Welfare of our *Plantations*. My Knowledge of this *French Settlement* was convey'd to me through the Part I acted in the Affairs of a deceas'd *Merchant*, who traded to that *Island*.

My private Station in the World check'd me in this Undertaking ;
but

but I consider'd, that no Condition of Life, no Circumstances, can absolve any from the Obligation, which every One owes to his Country, when they have any Thing to propose for its Advantage.

I therefore presume, that an Intention of *doing Good*, and preventing *Evil* and *Injury* to the *Publick*, as well as to private *Persons*, will serve as an *Apology* for becoming an *Advocate* for those, who are His Majesty's faithful and useful Subjects; and who have particularly contributed more to the *Common Good* of the *Island* they inhabit, the other adjacent *Plantations*, the Interest of the *Crown*, and these *Kingdoms*, than to their own private *Advantage*.

I can't but think it necessary to offer to the Consideration of the *Government*, and the *Two Houses* of
of

of *Parliament*, that there are other unprofitable and unemploy'd *Tracts of Land*, which belong to the *Crown*, and which may be granted to the *South Sea Company*; the Settlement and Improvement whereof would be no Ways injurious to Others, but be a great Addition to the *Value* and *Power* of the *British Dominions*.

Among others abroad, may be reckon'd the *Island of Tabago*, and several of the *Virgin Islands*; where are safe Roads, Creeks, and Harbours, and many more natural Advantages for *Trade*, *Planting*, and *Provisions*, than in the *Island of St. Christophers*.

It may not be amiss to add, that the late *French King* being sensible of the Advantage of a good Settlement in the Colonies which belong'd to that Nation, did send, after the late

late Peace, 500 Families to *Hispaniola*, and gave them, as an Additional Encouragement, their Passage, and a Year's Provision. By such wise Methods, and the Encouragement given there, and in their other Sugar Plantations, they can afford to sell their Sugars cheaper than we can do; and hereby prevent our Exportation of such large Quantities of Sugar to *Holland*, and other Parts of *Europe*, which we should otherwise do. On these Accounts they have of late, according to a Report of the Lords of Trade, imported great Quantities even into *Barbadoes*; and their Lordships give this as a Reason why His Majesty should give due Protection and Encouragement to this new and valuable Plantation, of the French Part of *St. Christophers*.

It is further worth observing, that the *French*, who are better peopled in *Martinique*, and *Guadalupe*, which *Islands* lie to the Windward of *St. Christophers*, may, in Case of a War, and the weakning of that *Settlement*, thro' any Discouragement, be successful in their Invasions.

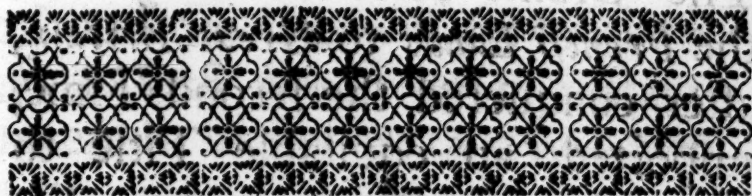
Do not these Things plead for the more effectual *Settlement* of our *Plantations*, by giving all due Encouragement to the *Inhabitants* thereof? And, who will ever be easily perswaded to settle in any new *Colonies*, if they behold any ill Returns made to those, who have settled so beneficially for a common Good, in the *French Lands* of *St. Christophers*?

Again, all *Princes* and *States* are generally at the Charge to defend

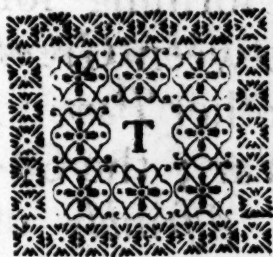
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send and settle Inhabitants in the Colonies of the *West Indies* ; but the *Grantees* in the *French Part* of *St. Christophers* have settled there at their own Expence, though under visible Encouragement of the Government ; and if they should pay a Consideration for the *Lands* so settled, it will be the first Example of that Kind, I ever heard of in all *America* ; especially, if a great Price be exacted from them.

But I will not trespass farther on the Reader's *Patience*, upon whose Goodness I must rely, for pardoning the Defects of the following *Case* ; which is publish'd with all Humility and Respect to the Government, as well as design'd for a Publick Good.



THE
C A S E
OF THE
POSSESSORS
OF THE
FRENCH LANDS.



THE *French* were
twice expell'd the
Island of *St. Christo-*
phers, by those of
the *English Quarter*,
with great Expence, and Hazard
of their Lives, during the Wars
of King *William*, and Queen *Anne*.

The Grants before the *Cession* of the *French Lands* to *Great Britain*, after conquered the second Time, imported an equitable Title to Her Majesty's Bounty, upon the *Cession* of the said *French Part* to *Great Britain*.

The *French King's* Subjects, upon such *Cession*, and taking the Oaths of Allegiance, were absolutely restored to their former *Proprieties*, to settle or sell the same.

When an Account was brought to the *Island* of *St. Christophers*, that a *Congress* was forming for establishing a Peace between *Great Britain*, *France*, and other *Powers*, then engaged in the War; the *Governor*, *Council*, and *Assembly* of the said *Island*, took into Consideration the Inconvenience and Damage which might further ensue to the *English Quarter*, and the
neigh-

neighbouring *Islands* which belong'd to the *Crown of Great Britain*, in Case the *French* should be allowed by a *Treaty of Peace*, to resettle that Part of the *Island*, which belong'd to that *Nation*; and did joyn in an Address to the late *Queen*, that She would be pleased, for sundry Reasons expressed therein, to give Instructions to her *Plenipotentiaries* at *Utrecht*, to insist that the said *Lands* should be yielded to *Great Britain*, which was accordingly granted by the said *Treaty*.

Upon which several *Governors* in chief of the *Leeward Islands*, and of the said *Island*, had Directions to make *Temporary Grants*, to encourage the *Inhabitants* of the said *Island*, and others, to manure, plant, and settle the said *Lands*, which they did at great Expence: And most having borrowed Money

ney upon *Credit*, to buy *Slaves*, and *Cattle*, and to build *Dwellings*, *Sugar Boiling Houses*, *Mills*, *Stills*, and *Coppers*, to compleat a *Settlement*, have not been able yet to pay their *Debts*; and some not the *Interest* upon the *Money* borrowed, out of the clear *Profits* of their *Plantations*.

The *Produce* thereof for several *Years* past (being about 5000 *Hogsheads* of *Sugar* yearly, besides some other *Commodities*) has greatly augmented his *Majesty's Revenue* of *Customs*, been beneficial to the *British Navigation*, and the *Trade* of these *Kingdoms*, by the *Quantity* of *Goods* they have taken yearly from hence.

The *Ships* which are employ'd in the *Exportation* of our *Manufactories*, and the other *Produce* of these *Kingdoms*, of *Beef*, *Pork*, and
Butter

Butter from *Ireland*, and other Things from *New England*, to the *French Part* of the *Island*, may be computed to be Thirty in Number, besides *Sloops*, and other small *Vessels* ; which are more than the *South Sea Company*, or any other *Company*, would ever employ ; because it has been experienc'd, that the Management of *Plantations* by private Persons, has always been the most effectual and useful *Settlement* in all Respects. The Advantages in *Customs*, and otherwise, have been hereby to the Publick, long before now, more than 100 Times the Value of the *French Part*, before the said *Improvements*.

At the Expiration of the Temporary Grants, the said *Governors* have received Directions from the *Lords Commissioners of Trade and Plantations* not to molest the said Possessors,

Possessors, in their Plantations; and upon Application to His Majesty, Orders have been accordingly given from Time to Time, by one of the Principal Secretaries of State, that the said Persons should remain in peaceable Possession, till His Majesty's Pleasure should be further known, in Disposal of the said Lands.

The Lords of Trade, after having receiv'd and consider'd several Proposals, for purchasing the said Lands, did find great Difficulties in the Disposal of them for the Use of the Publick, without prejudicing the said Possessors; and did, among other Things, Report to the Lords of the Treasury, that it was highly just and reasonable, that the said Possessors should have the Preference of the Lands they so held, upon some valuable Consideration; and did submit it
to

to their *Lordships* Judgment, if it might be adviseable to exact from the *Possessors*, a *Price* equal to what a *Stranger* might offer for *Them*, and their *Improvements* on the same.

Now, if it is propos'd, that the *South Sea Company* should become absolute *Masters* of these *Plantations*; it will be the Reverse of the Opinion of the *Lords* of *Trade*, and destroy the *Maxim* they went upon, as well as That which all conversant in *Trade* do hold, viz. That in the Number of small *Plantations*, and not in a few great *Plantations*, the Strength and Goodness of the *Planting* Interest (especially with respect to the Number of White People) must necessarily consist.

Besides, This Way of Disposal, seems by no Means agreeable to
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any of the Conditions upon which the *Lords of Trade*, did give their Opinions these Lands ought to be disposed of. And They did particularly Report, That the Disposal of them ought to be in a Way most advantageous in its Consequences to the *Publick*, and best conducive to the good *Settlement* of the *Island*.

Again, If the *Lands* be yielded to the *Company*, there will unavoidably ensue some Interruptions in the Produce of Sugar, and the Trade of the *Island*, by a Change of Hands; which will be farther prejudicial to the *Publick*: And any *Oppression*, on the Part of the *Company*, may possibly occasion a Disturbance there; which may endanger the *Publick Peace* of that *Island*.

It is more especially to be consider'd, that half of these *Lands* were full of *Bushes, Trees, &c.* which occasion'd an extraordinary Expence to the *Inhabitants*, in cultivating the same.

Further, If an *absolute* Grant is made to the *South Sea Company*, the *Possessors* will be liable to utter Ruin, may be provok'd to settle with the adjacent *Islands*, belonging to the *Dutch* and *French*, where they may have *Lands* for nothing. And this Consequence will certainly follow, That our *Merchants* here, who have a Dependence on their *Correspondency* with *Merchants* and *Planters* in those Parts, will be greatly prejudiced, and some, perhaps, undone. Surely, there is too *Melancholy* a *Scene* beheld already, in the *Sufferings* of *Merchants*, through *fatal* *Managements*

ments of the *South Sea Company*,
and the Decay of *Trade*.

Since, therefore, the present Possessors are equally His Majesty's Subjects ; and most of them by venturing their Lives, in twice conquering of the said Lands, as well as by the aforesaid Address, have first contributed to have them, so conquer'd, yielded to Great Britain, have lost great Part of their Substance, by the Wars with France, especially at the REVOLUTION, when their Improvements were destroy'd, for which they never have had any Compensation ; have since added a considerable Increase to His Majesty in His Customs, by their expensive and laborious Improvements of them ; and most of their Substance being now upon the Same (and few of them reimburs'd the Charge they have been at) having had
Encou-

Encouragement to expect the Favour of the Government, and must be great Sufferers, as well as the Publick, if the South Sea Company become Proprietors of them: So it is humbly hop'd, That they will be regarded in the Disposal of the Lands; and that such Conditions shall be prescrib'd to any, who may have them, as may prevent Oppression, and most effectually secure a Settlement for the Publick Advantage of this Kingdom, those Plantations, and the adjacent Colonies.

If it be objected, That the Produce of the above Quantity of Sugar, has been a Recompence to the present Planters. It can no Ways appear to be so, if it is consider'd, That after the Duty and Charges at the said Island, the Waste, Freight, Duty, and Charges here, are deducted from the low Price

Price they hitherto have sold at ;
 the *Planters* have not clear'd above
 6 s. per ϕ . for their Sugar, the
 small Time they have had this
 Produce from the *Lands*, towards
 maintaining their Families, and
 discharging their expensive *Settle-*
ment. And besides, they have
 had Losses by *Sea*, and otherwise
 suffer'd by *Hurricanes*, which they
 are yearly subject to.

F I N I S.

